

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
NOVEMBER 15, 2002

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, November 15, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Major General Denver Brackeen, Mrs. Sara Fox, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Mr. George Walker, Mr. Lawrence Warren, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Member absent: Mrs. Patricia Randall.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mrs. Eloise Richardson, Mrs. Denise Walley, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Ms. Frankie Walton-White.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Tom Layzell, Dr. Bill Smith and Mr. Pete Walley – IHL; Ms. Pauline Childs – Mississippi State Department of Education; and Dr. Tommy Davis – East Mississippi Community College.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. All guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of October 24 and 25, 2002, Meetings

Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 24 and 25, 2002, meetings.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher reported on a meeting with Governor Ronnie Musgrove to discuss his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2004. He stated that the Governor's proposal looks very favorably on education and briefly discussed it with the Board (Exhibit A). Dr. Stonecypher expressed appreciation to the Governor for his efforts to put education where it should be.

Dr. Stonecypher discussed the recommendations received from MGT America, Inc., during a joint meeting with the MACJC presidents on yesterday afternoon. The MACJC will meet on November 26, 2002, and will discuss the recommendations in depth for possible action. He

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suggested that the Board review the recommendations for possible action at the December SBCJC meeting.

Dr. Stonecypher asked the Board for their position on the negotiations between the State Department of Education (SDE) and SBCJC staff to develop a contract that would allow the SBCJC to receive flow-through funds to operate post-secondary vocational/technical education. He reported that State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Johnson, has agreed to meet and discuss the contractual agreement.

Dr. Stonecypher reported that interviews are continuing to fill the position of the SBCJC Director of Affiliated Activities. He hopes that the position will be filled by the December SBCJC meeting.

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert announced that SBCJC Supervisor of Accounting, Ms. Debbie Borgman had been selected as the Community College Business Officers (CCBO) Region IX Outstanding Business Officer. Mrs. Gilbert and Ms. Borgman traveled to San Diego, California to receive her award. She also announced that East Central Community College's Business Manager, Mr. Mickey Vance received the CCBO Chief Outstanding Business Officer Award for Region IX. Dr. Stonecypher and Mrs. Gilbert both commended Ms. Borgman on her hard work. Mr. Walker asked that letters be drafted and forwarded to Ms. Borgman and Mr. Vance in recognition of their awards.

Dr. Stonecypher distributed copies of Issue 2 of the SBCJC newsletter to the Board (Exhibit B).

Dr. Stonecypher reported on meetings of a group chaired by Dr. Robert Khayat, Chancellor of the University of Mississippi, examining the deep budget reductions to Mississippi's educational system K-12 through university level, and possible revenue enhancements.

Dr. Stonecypher updated the Board on the e-audit process. In addition to the e-audit there will be some on-site audits to ensure accountability of the system. He commended Dr. Evelyn Webb for her work with the e-audit system. Dr. Webb stated that she and Dr. Larry Day had traveled to East Central Community College and completed a site audit. She also stated that it is very important that the SBCJC auditors continue their fact to face relationships with the colleges' personnel.

Dr. Evelyn Webb, on behalf of the SBCJC Social Committee, issued an invitation to the Board to attend a Christmas Luncheon on December 13, 2002, immediately following the SBCJC meeting.

MACJC Report

Dr. Tommy Davis gave the Board a report on East Mississippi Community College classes that had been moved from Columbus Air Force Base to the Mississippi University for Women after the events of September 11, 2001. Those classes will be moved to the Golden Triangle Campus in light of the storm damage that MUW received recently.

He stated that the MACJC will be reviewing the Funding Study completed by MGT America, Inc.

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Dr. Davis stated that the MACJC approved a distance learning project between the Mississippi National Guard and Hinds Community College for a one year period.

The Association received a report from Dr. Cole's committee related to the issue of transferring post-secondary vocational/technical education from the Mississippi Department of Education to the SBCJC.

Dr. Davis reported that the presidents are awaiting a report from CCBenefits showing a breakdown of the economic impact community colleges have on a county by county basis. The report should be available in December.

The community colleges are continuing to prepare for the Commission on Colleges' Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) accreditation visit scheduled for February 2003.

Dr. Davis gave a report on East Mississippi Community College's Regional Legislative meeting held at the Golden Triangle Campus. He thanked SBCJC member, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg for attending.

Dr. Davis the reported on the Teacher Preparation Initiative developed to help with the critical teacher shortage in Mississippi. The Initiative is a collaborative effort involving all partners in providing educational services in Mississippi. The primary objective of this initiative is to address the teacher shortage in the state. Dr. Davis requested that SBCJC Associate Executive Director for Accountability and Support Services, Dr. Evelyn Webb, give the Board and overview of the project. Dr. Webb reported that the MACJC presidents embarked on the project in April of 2001, with the primary objective to examine every aspect of the teaching profession in the State of Mississippi. The project utilized research from SERVE to develop collaborative ways to improve teacher preparation throughout the state. Dr. Webb provided a copy of a project Status Report for Summer 2002 entitled "Teacher Preparation Initiative for Improving the Recruiting, Training, and Sustaining of a Quality Teaching Workforce" for each Board member (Exhibit C).

Dr. Webb also explained an alternate route to gain teacher certification for individuals that have Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees in secondary education, but were not education majors.

Institutions of Higher Learning

Dr. Tom Layzell, Commissioner of the Institutions of Higher Learning, thanked the Board for the opportunity to come and talk with them about ways to improve collaboration between the MDE, IHL, and community and junior college sectors to improve education in our state. He gave a brief overview of the Governor's Summit on Higher Education held last year. The summit developed a list of recommendations that provides a framework to move higher education forward. Dr. Layzell stated that he and Dr. Stonecypher would be meeting later today with NASA individuals on the Mississippi Education Involvement Project that is examining ways in which K-12, community and junior colleges, and IHL can work together in ways to increase collaborative efforts.

Dr. Layzell discussed the funding challenges that education is experiencing. IHL is in the process of reviewing the missions of the universities in the attempt to focus the colleges on ways

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they can be the best. IHL staff has developed a management report of performance indicators that will help in identifying how the colleges are doing. The first report will be presented to the IHL Board at their next meeting. IHL staff will also be presenting a new tuition policy to the IHL Board that will enable each of the universities to be more tailored in their tuition requests. This should aid in adding a balance in what institutions need to carryout their distinct responsibilities while assuring affordability to students.

Workforce Report

Chairman George Walker updated the Board on the activities of the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC). During the meeting the Council discussed the fact that deep cuts had been experienced in funding for workforce training. Mr. Walker stated that education is a major issue for any industry coming to the state. The Council is working very closely with the Federal Workforce Act (WIA) Board to try and tap federal funds to supplement and provide additional funds for workforce training. Mr. Walker distributed a list of WIA Individual Training Accounts (ITAS) by service providers (Exhibit D). He pointed out that only 30% of these funds are being paid to community and junior colleges. The Council's goal is to work with the colleges and the SBCJC to increase the number of ITAS that flow to the community colleges.

Mr. Walker gave a report on meetings of a SWDC committee and the WIA Board to work out a possible wish list for a Governor's proclamation (Exhibit E). The proclamation would urge the six local Workforce Investment Boards to designate the community and junior colleges as the presumptive deliverer of training for WIA-funded training in Mississippi.

Dr. Tommy Davis reported that the community and junior colleges may also tap WIA funds to provide customized training. East Mississippi developed a grant proposal to provide customized training and submitted it to their local WIA Board. The project was approved, but the requested funding was cut from the original amount requested, and they are still awaiting final approval.

Mr. Walker stated that the State of Mississippi will be required to submit a plan for operation of the Federal WIA program next year. Dr. Stonecypher stated that Mr. Jim Lott, with the Mississippi Development Authority, had suggested that WIA funds might be available to hire an individual to work with the Council in developing the plan and assure that community colleges are included.

Mr. Pete Walley suggested that since this program is based on each individual's choice as to where they want to go to receive training, the Council might want to develop a strategy to attract them to the community college programs.

Mr. Walker distributed a handout outlining recommendations from the RTS, Inc., strategic plan report commissioned by the SWDC (Exhibit F). The recommendations list ways to build a workforce for a competitive economy in the 21st Century.

Mr. Walker reported that he and Mr. Jim Lott had agreed to forward a letter to the Mississippi Legislature explaining that federal workforce training funds cannot be used to replace state funds at this time. The purpose of the letter is to provide clarification for legislators who feel that federal funds are available for training and that those should be utilized instead of state funds. Mr. Walker will provide the Board with a copy of the letter.

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Mr. Walker stated that he and Mr. Joe Jones will begin their meetings with editorial boards around the state in January and February of 2003. The purpose of the meetings will be to present the funding needs for workforce training.

Mr. Walker told the Board about a meeting he attended where he heard a report that many rural areas in Mississippi are forced to secure nurses from outside sources. He stated that in the Delta nurses are being secured from the Philippines. Since the community and junior colleges are the main providers of Associate Degree Nursing education programs in Mississippi, there is a great need to continue to secure adequate funding to support high cost programs.

EdNet Report

Mr. Jimmy Murphy gave a report on an EdNet Board meeting on October 21, 2002. Progress is being made on the Health Alert Network project with the Mississippi State Department of Health, University Medical Center, and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

The EdNet Board is supporting a Rural Utilities Grant for the city of Tchula, Mississippi. The grant will bring broadband Internet Services to Tchula. The city of Tchula will be the applicant with EdNet providing technology consultation and support. The grant will provide two years of funding for broadband service, computers and renovation of a building to be used as a community center. The Mississippi Library Commission and Mississippi Valley State University are also involved in the project.

Mr. Murphy stated that the EdNet Board was statutorily created in 1988 to oversee the development and use of Mississippi's ITFS frequencies and has approved staff's request to create a new utilization plan for this important state resource. He announced that former SBCJC Executive Director, Dr. Olon Ray, had been appointed to assist EdNet Director, Mr. Martin Mangold in carrying out a series of tasks to reevaluate EdNet's statute and chart future directions.

Program Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry reported that he would be bringing a request from Meridian Community College to add an option for Emergency Management to their Fire Protection Program to the Board for approval in December.

He also reported on a meeting of the community and junior college Academic Deans held at the SBCJC office yesterday.

Dr. Bradberry expressed appreciation to Board members for attending the MACJC Regional Legislative meetings. On behalf of the MACJC, he extended an invitation to the Board to attend the MACJC Legislative Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for February 12, 2003. Mr. Walker suggested that invitations be extended to the fifteen employer representatives of the SWDC.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mr. Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the November 30, 2002, Education Enhancement Fund and Budget

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Contingency Fund Disbursements from Funds 4080, 4110, and 3295 in the total amount of \$2,884,666.29 (Exhibit G).

Mrs. Fox then presented Financial Statements for Fund 2291, and 3291, as of October 31, 2002, for the Board's information (Exhibit J). No action was required.

Funding Study Update

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert thanked the Board members that attended the MGT, Inc., meeting held yesterday afternoon. The Funding Study Report was finalized and received by the SBCJC office on November 1, 2002. Each Board member should have received a copy of the report in the mail. Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Funding Study Advisory Committee has taken the fourteen recommendations in the report and would like for the Board to review them and submit any response to them in writing by November 21, 2002. Dr. Mary McKeown-Moak will be back to give a presentation to the Mississippi Legislature sometime in January. Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg asked that SBCJC staff notify the Board of the date of the January presentation as soon as it is determined.

After a discussion, the Board requested that information developed showing different scenarios based on the study recommendations be mailed to them for review prior to the December meeting. Mr. Walker asked that the Board be informed of any actions taken by the MACJC during their November 26, 2002, meeting with regard to the recommendations. Mrs. Heidelberg suggested that the Board dedicate the Thursday evening meeting to discuss the recommendations in detail. Mr. Walker asked the Board for their preference in changing the December meeting from the 19th and 20th to December 12th and 13th. Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mr. Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to hold the December meeting on December 12th and 13th, 2002. After further discussion the Board agreed to hold the Thursday, December 12th meeting at 2:00 p.m., at the SBCJC office and invite the MACJC presidents to attend at 3:00 p.m. to offer input and voice comments regarding the study.

Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg left the meeting.

GED/ABE Report

Mrs. Eloise Richardson gave the Board an update on the GED Division. She distributed an article on Ms. Shirley Jordan, a student enrolled in the Rankin County Adult Education Program who was named the recipient of a \$500 scholarship from Pace Learning Systems (Exhibit I).

Mrs. Richardson announced that Adult Basic Education Instructors from all areas of the state had participated with the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office in helping to register residents to vote. She encouraged Board members to attend local GED graduation ceremonies when they are invited.

She announced that the on-line GED preparation classes are growing and that soon the system will have to be expanded to accommodate the growth. She also reported that she is meeting with Department of Corrections (DOC) personnel to discuss collaborative projects. When inmates enter the system, they are given assessment tests for classification purposes. After

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working with the DOC officials, the test being administered now is the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education). This test is the same one used by all local ABE programs and indicates the level at which an individual functions. The test also prints a diagnostic profile indicating the skills the individual needs to function better.

Mrs. Richardson reported that she spent time at the Issaquena Regional Correctional Facility training three inmates with college degrees in the Laubach Program, Each One Teach One. These inmates will be utilized to help other inmates.

She stated that many local churches are showing interest in offering Adult Basic Education classes. Mrs. Richardson stated that more individuals are entering the GED preparation classes because the new test requires utilizing a calculator. New applicants must view a one-hour video presentation on the use of the calculator before they can take the GED test.

NIST

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave the Board an update on a proposal from the Mississippi Technology Alliance (MTA) concerning the Manufacturing Engineering Partnership (MEP). He distributed a memo outlining the changes in the proposal previously reviewed by the SBCJC (Exhibit J). The local community colleges would now have a representative that will visit local business and industry to learn their training needs and find ways to assist them. They would also suggest other programs they could utilize through the MEP such as engineering services, lean manufacturing techniques, etc. The MTA is asking the SBCJC to commit \$450,000. of in-kind contributions to serve as match to receive federal fund reimbursement. The process will require some additional paperwork for the colleges, but would allow for additional funding for workforce projects. Upon a motion by Mrs. Brenda Yonge and a second by Mr. Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to authorize SBCJC staff to continue to work with the MTA on the MEP project.

Dr. Stonecypher stated that in the past the SBCJC had supported efforts to transfer post-secondary vocational/technical education from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to the SBCJC. He asked for the Board's reaction to efforts to develop a proposed management contract with the MDE to allow funding for post-secondary vocational/technical education to flow to the SBCJC. The SBCJC would then administer the post-secondary programs. Upon a motion by Mr. Jimmy Murphy and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to support the concept of a management contract between the MDE and the SBCJC for operation of post-secondary vocational/technical programs.

Travel Authorizations

Mr. Walker asked if there were requests for travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. Upon a motion by Mrs. Sara Fox and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following travel authorizations:

George Walker for attending a meeting at Coahoma Community College on November 11, a SWDC meetings on November 13, and December 11, 2002, in Jackson, Mississippi.

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Dr. Dorothy Nelson for attending an MACJC Regional Legislative meeting at Coahoma Community College on November 11, 2002.

Mr. Jimmy Murphy for attending EdNet Board meetings on October 21, and November 4, 2002.

Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg for attending MACJC Regional meetings at East Mississippi Community College on November 10, and Meridian Community College on November 13, 2002.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.


Mr. George Walker, Chairman


Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director